Hydrocarbon in Surinsur and other place of J and K, has been abandoned after failing to reach the target depth;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to restart drilling at Surinsur and the measures being taken to reach upto the target depth;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether a study under guidance of International Expert is being carried out to review the exploration activities in J and K; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Drilling was carried out by ONGC in Surinsar area at two locations (SNS-I and SNS-2) and it had to be terminated before reaching the target depth due to technical reasons. Two other wells drilled without success in J and K in Karewa valley at Chattergam and Narbal were abandoned after meeting their geological objective.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The geological, geophysical and drilled well data of the entire Foothills area (which include Jammu region also) was examined and re-evaluated jointly by a team of ONGC and British Petroleum (B.P.) Personnel, but the prospectivity of the area was found to be.

(d) and (e) Dr. A.W. Bally, an eminent expert has been engaged by ONGC for evaluation of Ganga - Himalaya petroleum prospects in general. This study does not specifically cover prospectivity of Jammu area but is likely to highlight the strategy for exploration in thrust folded belt of Ganga Himalaya Region in general. The study was initiated in January, 1996 and results of the study are scheduled to be presented to ONGC in July, 1997.

Housing Problem

2864. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any efforts are being made by the Government in Rural Areas to solve the housing problem;

(b) if so, the number of Houses constructed under the various schemes during the last three years and the State-wise details of the houses to be allotted to the poor and backward people of various communities;

(c) whether the Government would be able to solve the housing problem by the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the annual target fixed for the construction of houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Indira Awaas Yojana assistance is provided for construction of houses to specified categories of beneficiaries who are below poverty line. The details of houses constructed and number of persons benefitted under this scheme in the last 3 years are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Depending upon the availability of funds, efforts will be made to meet the housing shortage for the people below poverty line in rural areas by the end of the 9th Five Year Plan period.

(d) The target fixed during the 1996-97 for the various States/UTs under Indira Awaas Yojana is 11.23 lakh houses.

Statement

Name of State	Houses constructed/allotted		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	44897	57483	69086
Arunachal Pradesh	120	219	420
Assam	4304	6862	24871
Bihar	88960	59216	114506
Goa	358	329	967
Gujarat	7117	7895	31770
Haryana	1552	3536	9024
Himachal Pradesh	629	853	1727
Jammu & Kashmir	390	1697	3554
Karnataka	8820	13831	37460
Keraia	16999	18549	29368
Madhya Pradesh	48108	48967	125757
Maharashtra	18870	22812	66648
Manipur	208	197	784
Meghalaya	353	283	207
Mizoram	240	368	569
Nagaland	1536	895	470
Orissa	10588	13297	51033
Punjab	2739	3849	1121
Rajasthan	19958	28934	41756
Sikkim	142	108	1065
Tamil Nadu	33758	33176	56885
Tripura	636	567	1348
Uttar Pradesh	47722	50908	159073
West Bengal	13389	15526	34278
A & N Islands	21	21	21

1	2	3	4
D & N Haveli	60	59	13
Daman & Diu	13	45	62
Lakshadweep	0	0	10
Pondicherry	48	0	36
Total	372535	390482	863889

H.S. Diesel

2865. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of domestic consumption of high Speed Diesel, Aviation Turbine Fuel, Kerosene, LPG Motor Sprit during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The details of domestic consumption of high speed diesel (HSD) Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), Kerosene, LPG and Motor Spirit (MS) are given below :

('000' Tonnes)

Products	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97* (April-December)
H.S.D.	28261	32254	25596
A.T.F.	1903	2082	1612
Kerosene	8964	9368	7209
L.P.G.	3434	3849	3041
Motor Spirit	4141	4679	3724

* Provisional.

Manufacture of Paraffin Wax

2866. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had decided to abolish the "Paraffin Wax Distribution Control Act, 1912;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to import Paraffin Wax;

(d) if so, whether the import of paraffin wax is likely to adversely affect the small scale manufacturers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to protect the small scale manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) With a view to augment the free availability of the waxes in the country, Government has repealed the Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation) Order, 1972 and replaced it by Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation Order), 1997.

(c) to (e) Under the new policy, paraffin wax type-I has been made a free trade product. Paraffin Wax type-II and III shall continue to be supplied at the present level at controlled prices to the small scale candle and match box manufacturing units respectively registered on or before 30.6.1986. The additional requirements of the exisitng and other units will be met by the oil companies at market determined prices or direct import from the international market by them. Paraffin wax has been decanalised with effect from 1.4.1992 and industrial consumers are free to import wax directly to meet their requirements.

Million Wells Scheme

2867. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the amount spent during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 under the Million Wells Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : Under Million Wells Scheme (MWS), the amount spent during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under :

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	77618.41
1995-96	53828.85
1996-97	28482.36 (upto February, 1997)

Power Policy

2868. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to bring about reforms in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a 15 point Action Plan has been proposed for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time limit fixed for implementation of these 15 points programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Based on the intensive discussions with the State Governments and Chief Ministers Conference held in October, 1996 and December, 1996, a Common Minimum National Action Plan on Power has been finalised and adopted for implementation.